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leaning towards the idea of the common and equal priesthood of all Christians. John of Wesel, coinciding with Goch in his Augustinianism, was chiefly conspicuous for his attacks on the system of indulgences, and on the corruption of the clergy ; but left a stain on his memory by a feeble and manifestly insincere recantation when on trial for heresy. Hans Böheim was an unlearned and fanatical reformer, a herdsman-prophet, in Eastern Franconia, and, before he perished at the stake, had kindled the fierce popular excitement which issued in the Peasant War. Cornelius Grapheus, secretary of the city of Antwerp, a learned man, whose "*Querimonia*," written in prison, is one of the purest specimens of modern Latin versification, was indefatigably zealous in propagating Goch's doctrines in the Netherlands, but, worn by long confinement, sought freedom at the cost of integrity by renouncing and condemning all beliefs at variance with the standard of the Church.

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11. — *History of the Council of Trent.* From the French of L. F. BUNGENER. Edited, from the Second London Edition, with a Summary of the Acts of the Council, by JOHN MCCLINTOCK, D.D. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1855. 24mo. pp. 546.

A CANDID and faithful history of the Council of Trent has not till now been accessible to the public generally, and yet the professed and (with unessential exceptions) the actual identity of the Romanism of to-day with the Tridentine decrees attaches prime importance and value to such a history. The book before us unites accuracy and minuteness of detail with pictorial vividness of narration and rhetorical grace and beauty. Dr. McClintock's "Summary" is just what is needed for reference, and has the merit equally of lucidness and of brevity.

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12. — *The Constitutional Text-Book: A Practical and Familiar Exposition of the Constitution of the United States, and of Portions of the Public and Administrative Law of the Federal Government. Designed chiefly for the Use of Schools, Academies, and Colleges.* By FURMAN SHEPPARD. Philadelphia: Childs and Peterson. 1855. 12mo. pp. 324.

A BOOK like this can of course lay no claim to originality, when its entire ground has been covered by such men as Rawle and Story. But

we believe that the author has succeeded in preparing a text-book on the Constitution, which is better adapted for educational purposes and for the use of non-professional readers than any preceding treatise of the kind. His exposition is terse and clear. It embraces numerous administrative details, and presents the actual working of the public law. It institutes, for the purpose of illustration, frequent comparison of our Constitution with the British. It is marked throughout by a wise conservatism, which shuns all latitudinarian constructions. Its value is also enhanced by a Comparative Chart of the State Constitutions, containing on a single sheet materials which, in any but a tabular form, would fill a volume.

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13. — *Modern Mysteries Explained and Exposed.* By REV. A. MAHAN, First President of Cleveland University. Boston: John P. Jewett & Co. 1855. 12mo. pp. 466.

THIS book has for its subject the various forms of modern necromancy. It presents substantially the views maintained in our April number. It exhibits ample proof that the alleged communications of departed spirits extend no farther than the consciousness of the medium or the knowledge of the consulting circle; that opposite responses may be obtained on the same subjects, in accordance with the varying mental states and opinions of the parties concerned; and that, by the intense action of his own mind, the questioner may procure at pleasure false, self-contradictory, and absurd answers. It is too late to deny the intrusion upon our age of phenomena lying outside of our recognized systems of material and spiritual philosophy. By refusing to them a place within the realm of possibility, and denying to them a physical cause, we only give the wider license to the insane and impious superstition which is peopling our mad-houses, and promises also no slight contribution to the working force of our penitentiaries. President Mahan's theory includes, we believe, all the authenticated facts which furnish ground for this superstition. We are glad to find that Dr. Bell of the Somerville Asylum, in a paper read at a recent meeting of his fraternity, maintained views in strict accordance with those advocated in our journal, and now supported by the extensive induction and cogent reasoning of the book before us.